

TRANSITIONS IN SACRAMENTO

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The Board of Podiatric Medicine (BPM) is the unit of the Medical Board of California (MBC), Department of Consumer Affairs, which administers licensing of DPMs under the State Medical Practice Act.

*Sacramento, June 30--*Governor Schwarzenegger has appointed new leaders for our Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA). Very good ones.

Charlene Zettel is the new DCA Director. The first Latina Republican elected to the state Legislature, she served in the Assembly from 1998 to 2002. **Sherry Mehl**, her Chief Deputy Director, has been a leader among executive officers, most recently with the Board of Behavioral Sciences.

Director Zettel impressed attendees from the various boards at a recent orientation for new Board Members. She emphasized a new collaborative approach to working with boards. That's music to the ears, contrasting as it does with the tendency of some previous political appointees to distrust the workforce.

Jack Watson, Jimmy Carter's 1976-77 presidential transition chief, urged his departmental liaison teams to consider the agency staffs as "all Carter people." Other Carter people made sure that didn't happen, and the new Administration suffered for it. State workers, whether they consider themselves to be "Schwarzenegger people" or not, are eager to assist the new Governor's success in any way they can.

Licensing boards are "*semi*-autonomous" of the Department, as we are governed by board members appointed by the Governor and Legislature. But we depend on the department's umbrella for services and more. Most boards seek close coordination with Executive Branch leadership. Make no mistake that we are also governed by the Governor, his appointees at DCA and other "control agencies," and the Legislature. We have lots of bosses!

Zettel and Mehl understand complex organizations and how to lead them. They also show a sense of stewardship for resource-challenged programs. Along these lines, the Governor's California Performance Review [<http://cpr.ca.gov/>] will recommend reorganizations for our 21st Century needs. These are due for release within days, about the time this newsletter will go to press.

Significantly, Director Zettel commented too that there will be times when she will ask boards to be courageous.

Mark Your Calendar

BPM will be holding its next public meeting in San Diego! The date is Friday, October 8. Location TBA. The Board values public participation and looks forward to seeing you. An agenda will be posted on our website at least 10 days prior to the meeting.

BPM Seeks Experts & Consultants

Enforcement Chair **Phyllis Weinstein, DPM** and Enforcement Coordinator **Michelle Mason** report they need medical consultants in your area:

When quality of care issues arise, they are evaluated by podiatric medical consultants and experts, case by case, based on the standard of care. BPM's podiatric medical consultants and experts are a group of experienced, residency-trained, and board certified DPMs.

The standard of care is dynamic. It allows for advancements in the state of knowledge, and the individual circumstances of each case. It generally reflects the knowledge, skills and professional practice in the community. These are derived from various sources, including but not limited to, medical textbooks, medical references, and medical training provided in academic and professional education programs.

Findings from any source should be drawn from a statistically derived basis, using recognized research methodology. Anecdotal references are not acceptable.

The primary role of the expert reviewer is to identify whether a deviation from the standard of practice has occurred. An expert may also be required to testify at an administrative hearing.

The role of the podiatric medical consultant is different. While responsible for preliminary reviews of quality of care complaints, they also serve as a resource for board staff, investigators and attorneys general in addition to assisting probation officers in the monitoring of probationers.

If you are interested in becoming a BPM consultant or expert reviewer, please visit the BPM website at:

<http://bpm.ca.gov/licensing>

or call the Enforcement Coordinator at (916) 263-4324 to request an application.

bpm.ca.gov

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